

February 24, 1958

Dr. Milton O. Lee
Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology
9650 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington 14, D. C.

Dear Dr. Lee:

Dr. Eagle, as president of the Society of American Bacteriologists, has sent me a copy of your letter to him dated February 11. As he has doubtless told you, I am one of the bacteriologists who is indeed deeply interested in the question of uses of earth satellites for life sciences experiments. I am looking forward to the opportunity of enlarging the area of my own information in this field and I am particularly hopeful that some progress might be made on the issue of the importance of contamination of the moon for biological research. I hope that my memoranda on this subject do not leave the impression that I am a convinced advocate of Arrhenius' theory or that I am certain that lunar contamination is the most pressing issue facing biological applications of satellites. However I did feel that the subject was far too important to be dismissed without the most cautious review by scientists expert in the various relevant fields.

I have just one favor to ask you in connection with the organization of the meeting. The microbiology study section of the National Institutes of Health is due to meet in Washington early in May. It would be a matter of great personal distress to me if there should be an irreconcilable conflict between the study section meeting and the forthcoming conference. Could I ask you to keep in touch with Dr. Harvey Scudder at the NIH so as to minimize the likelihood of such a conflict?

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/ew
cc-Dr. Harvey Scudder, Division of Research Grants,
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda 14, Md.
cc-Dr. Morris F. Shaffer, Dept. of Microbiology,
Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, 12, La.